

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
WASHINGTON

26 November 1948

*f-1/5/49*

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MEMORANDUM TO THE PRESIDENT:

I am advised this date by the Department of State *x20*  
that they have received a letter dated 20 November 1948,  
addressed to the Secretary of State, from A. G. Cicognani,  
Archbishop of Laodicea, Apostolic Delegate in Washington. *x*  
A copy of this letter is enclosed. I am forwarding a copy  
of this letter to General MacArthur.

In view of this message from the Pope, it is my  
opinion that the entire matter should be given consideration  
before any of the death sentences are carried out. *78 as of 1/19/49*

As stated in my previous memorandum of 23 November,  
forwarded to you by Mr. Forrestal, any effective action on  
your part would probably require the concurrent action of  
other interested nations.

*x1285*

*Kenneth C. Royall*  
Kenneth C. Royall *x1285-13*  
Secretary of the Army

*x197*

Encl.

KCR:mob

Washington, D. C.

20 November 1948

My dear Mr. Secretary:


At the request of the Secretariat of State of Vatican City, I wish to present an appeal from His Holiness, Pope Pius, XII, in behalf of those prominent Japanese, especially the former Premier, Koki-Hirota, who have recently been condemned to death by the International Military Tribunal of the Far East. x197-7112  
x325-B

It is the earnest hope of the Holy Father that the American Occupation Authority in Japan will consider commuting the sentences of these men. If the extreme penalty of death be commuted, the justice decreed by the court will still be safeguarded and the supernatural spirit of Christian charity will shine forth in the darkness and sorrows of the present world demoralization. Such an act of clemency would have a salutary effect upon the peoples of the Far East and would go down in history as a manifestation of Christ-like mercy on the part of the representatives of a great nation and as a product of Christian civilization.

I shall be deeply appreciative of any consideration that may be given to this appeal of His Holiness and I shall be particularly grateful if it can be made known to the Commander of the Occupation Forces in Japan, General Douglas MacArthur.

(Closing paragraph (formality) omitted from quotation)

/s/ A. G. Cicognani  
Archbishop of Laodicea  
Apostolic Delegate



x 76-B

*Japanese*

3 December 1948

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

The President handed me your memorandum of 26 November which has to do with commutation of sentence for the Japanese officials condemned to death. #

The President directed me to advise you that he has decided to take no action in this matter whatsoever.

HARRY H. VAUGHAN  
Major General, U. S. Army (Res)  
Military Aide to the President

Honorable Kenneth C. Royall  
Secretary of the Army  
Department of the Army  
Washington 25, D. C.